Yojana, Jawahar Lal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, irrigation, AIBP, RIDF etc; and

(b) the latest position of its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Abolition of Settlement Commission

4363. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the system of Settlement Commission is being abolished w.e.f. 31st March, 2008;

(b) if so, what will happen to the pending cases;

(c) what are the total number of applications all over the country, charge-wise pending as on 31st March, 2007; and

(d) what actions are proposed by his Ministry to guide those who have filed settlement petitions in view of change-over?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir. The Finance Act, 2007 seeks to streamline the process of settlement of cases, so as to ensure expeditious disposal.

(b) Time limits have been prescribed in the Finance Act, 2007 disposal of pending applications.

(c) The details of pending applications in the Income Tax Settlement Commission and the Customs and Central Excise Settlement Commission are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(d) The proposed changes relating to settlement of cases have already been explained in the Memorandum explaining the provisions as contained in Finance Bill, 2007. Further explanations will be issued as and when required.

Statement

Details of Pending Applications

(a) Income Tax Settlement Commission

Name of the Bench	Applications pending for admission as on 31.3.2007	Applications pending for settlement as on 31.3.2007
Delhi	486	1103
Mumbai	203	738
Kolkata	128	311
Chennai	63	285
TOTAL:	880	2437

(b) Customs and Central Excise Settlement Commission

Name of the Bench	Applications pending for admission as on 31.3.2007	Applications pending for settlement as on 31.3.2007
Delhi	189	145
Mumbai	452	96
Kolkata	43	20
Chennai	170	79
TOTAL:	854	340

Clearing of backlog vacancies for SCs/STs

4364. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is fact that DoPT had directed all Insurance Corporations to clear backlog vacancies for SCs/STs both in promotions and recruitment during August, 2004;

(b) if so, what action were taken by the Corporations to fill up these backlog vacancies, as far as the Oriental Insurance Company Ltd. is concerned; and